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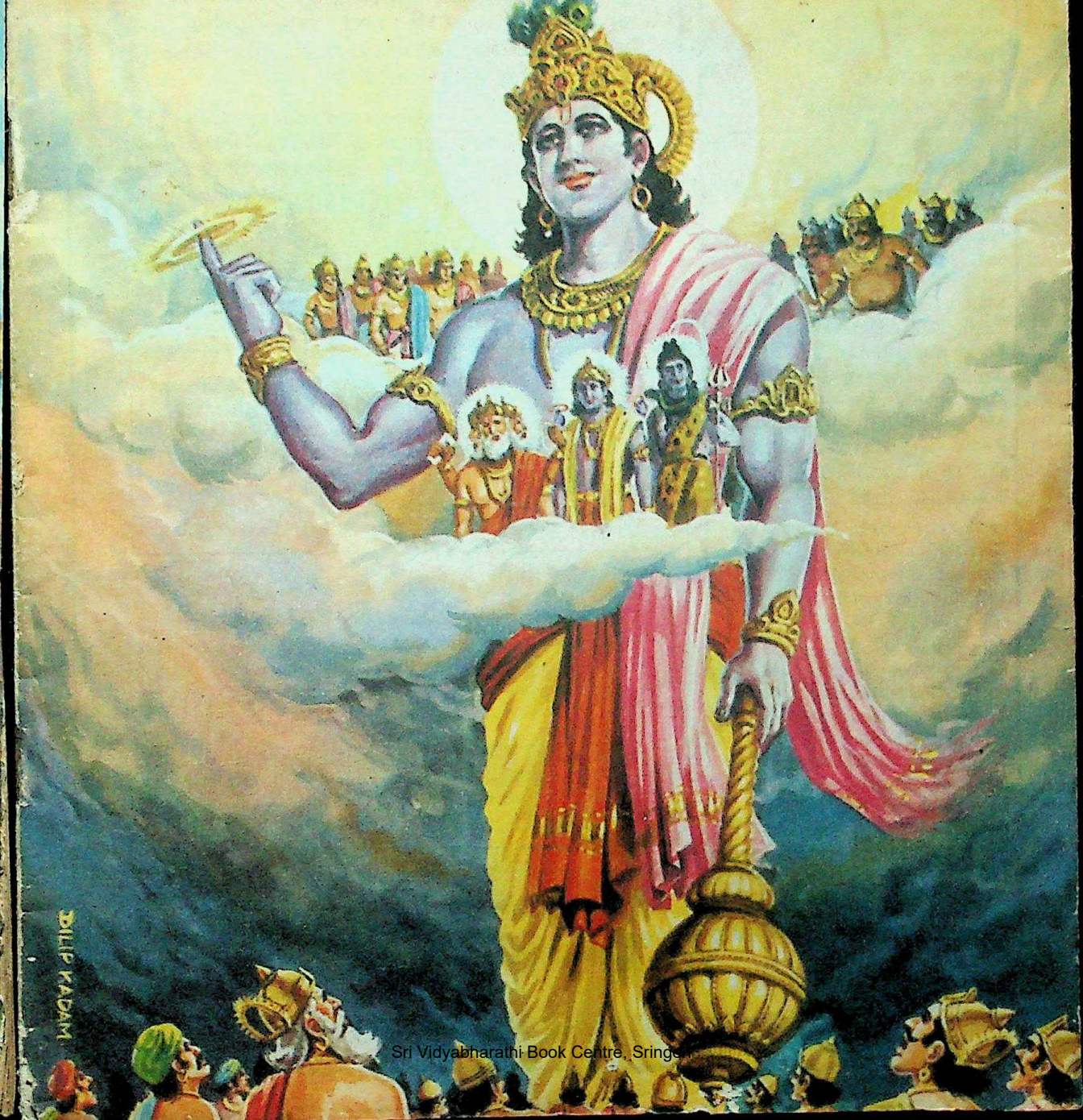

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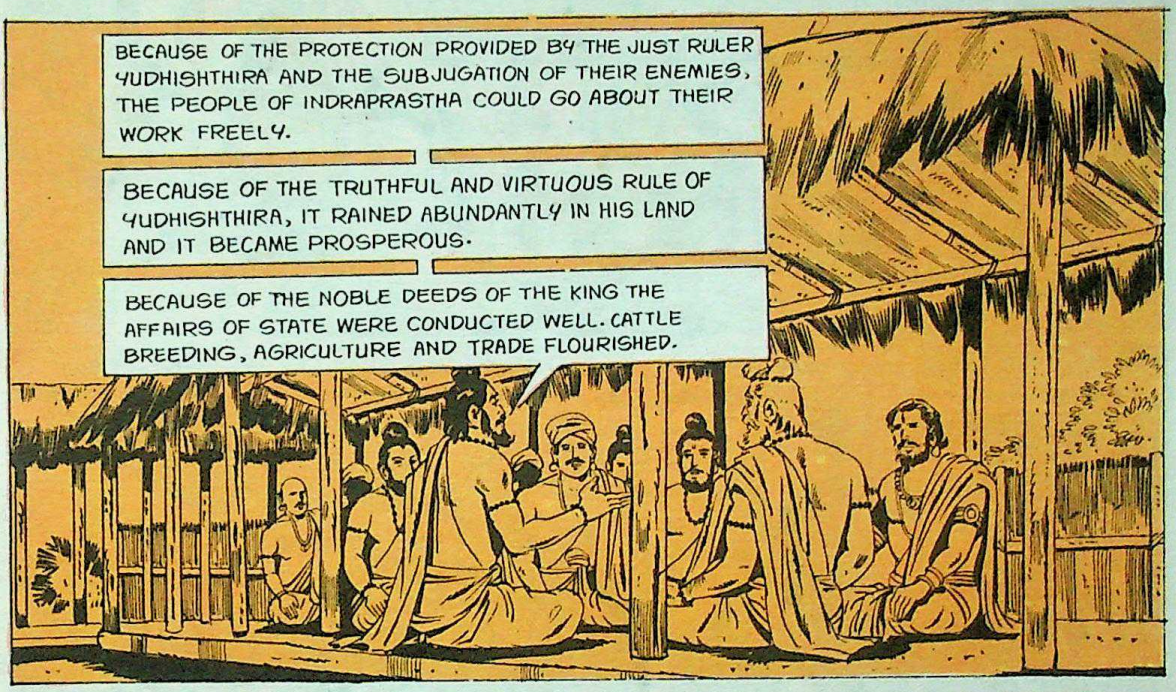

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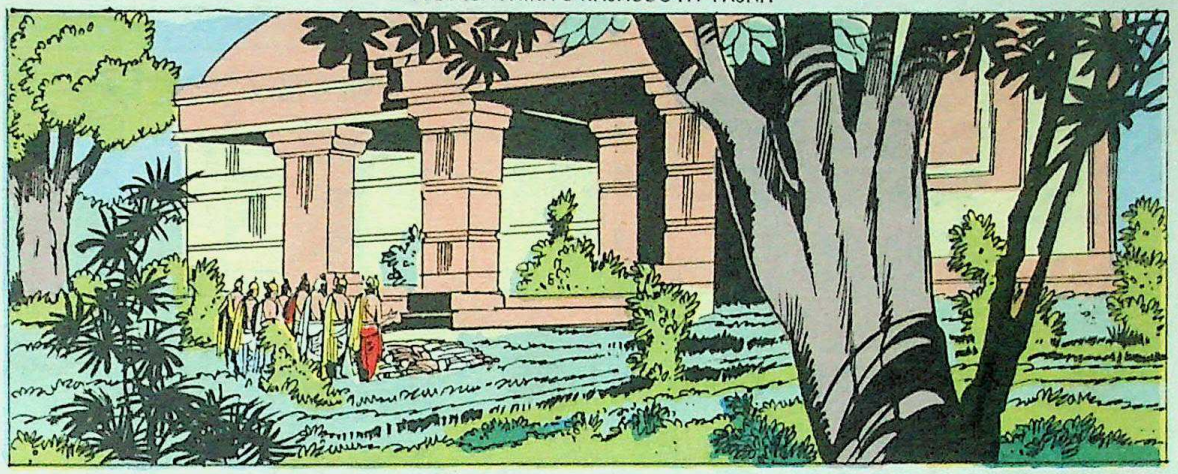

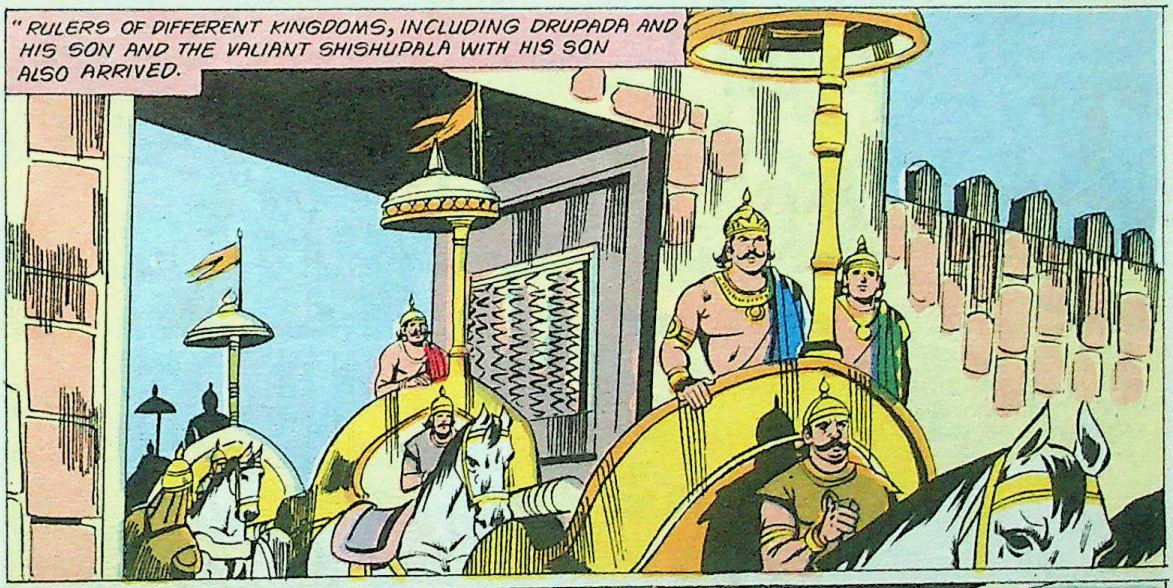

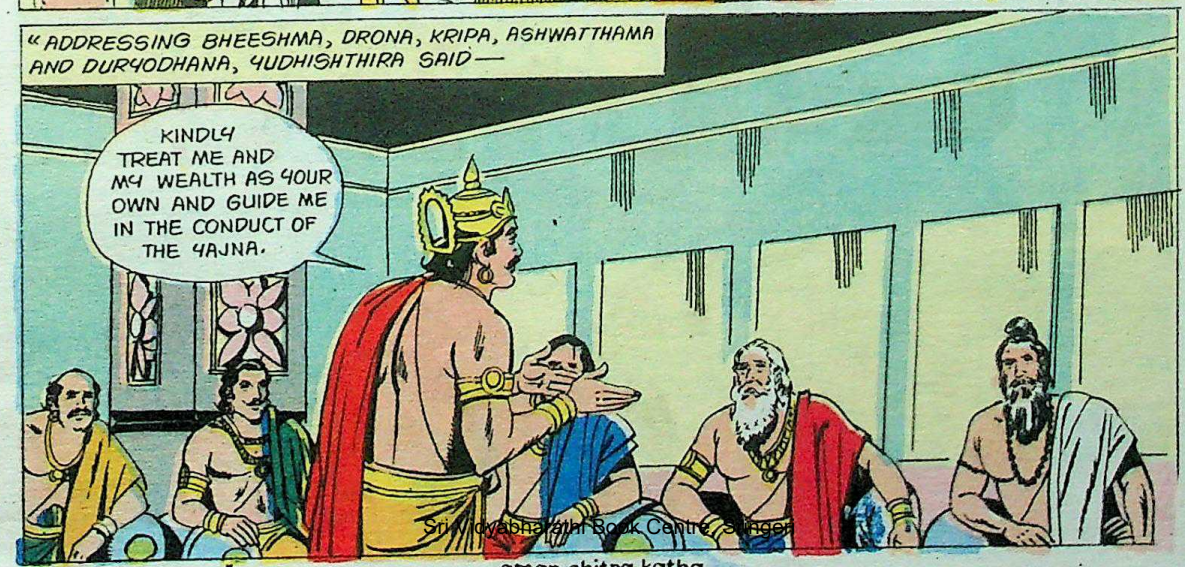

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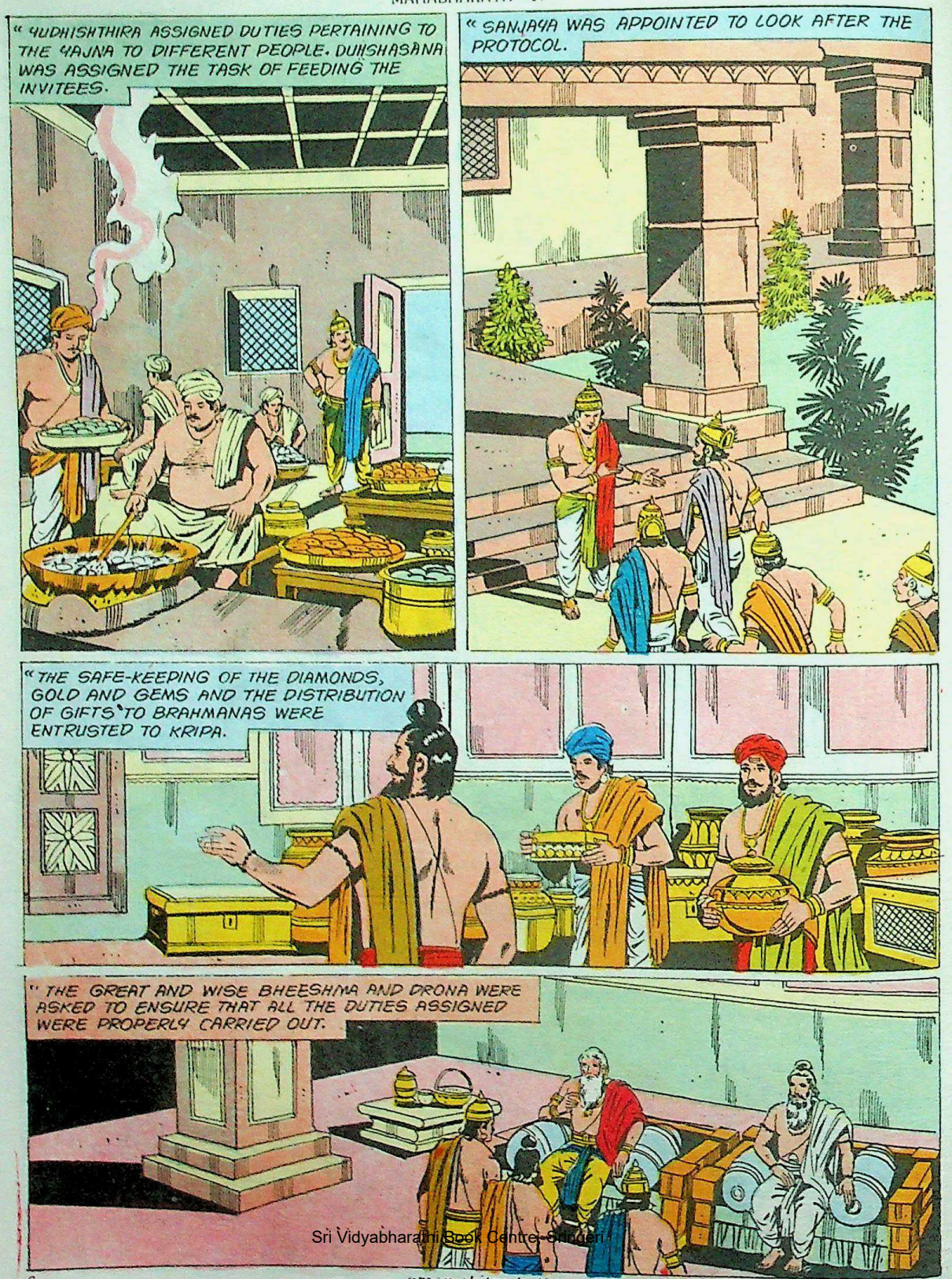

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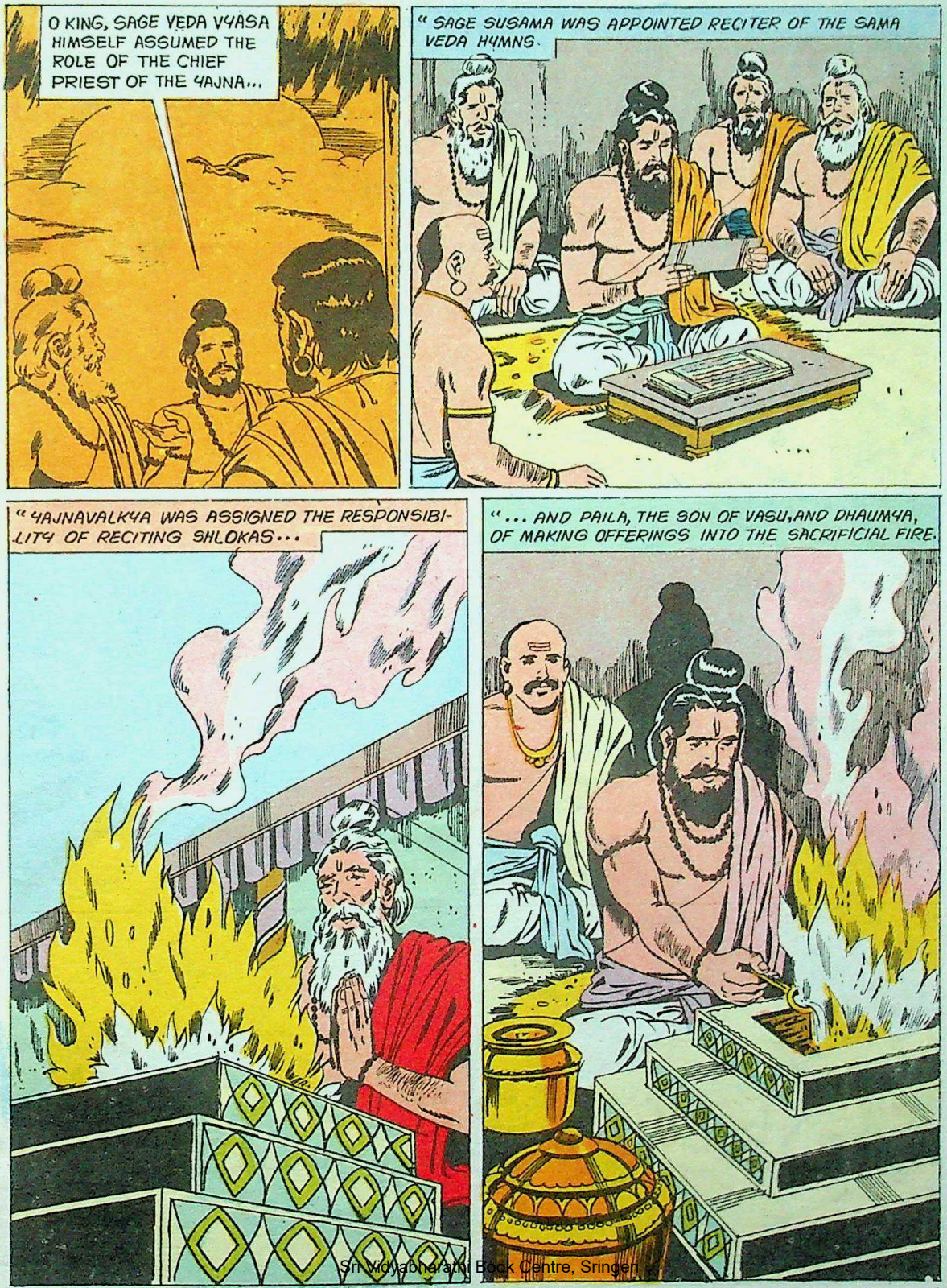

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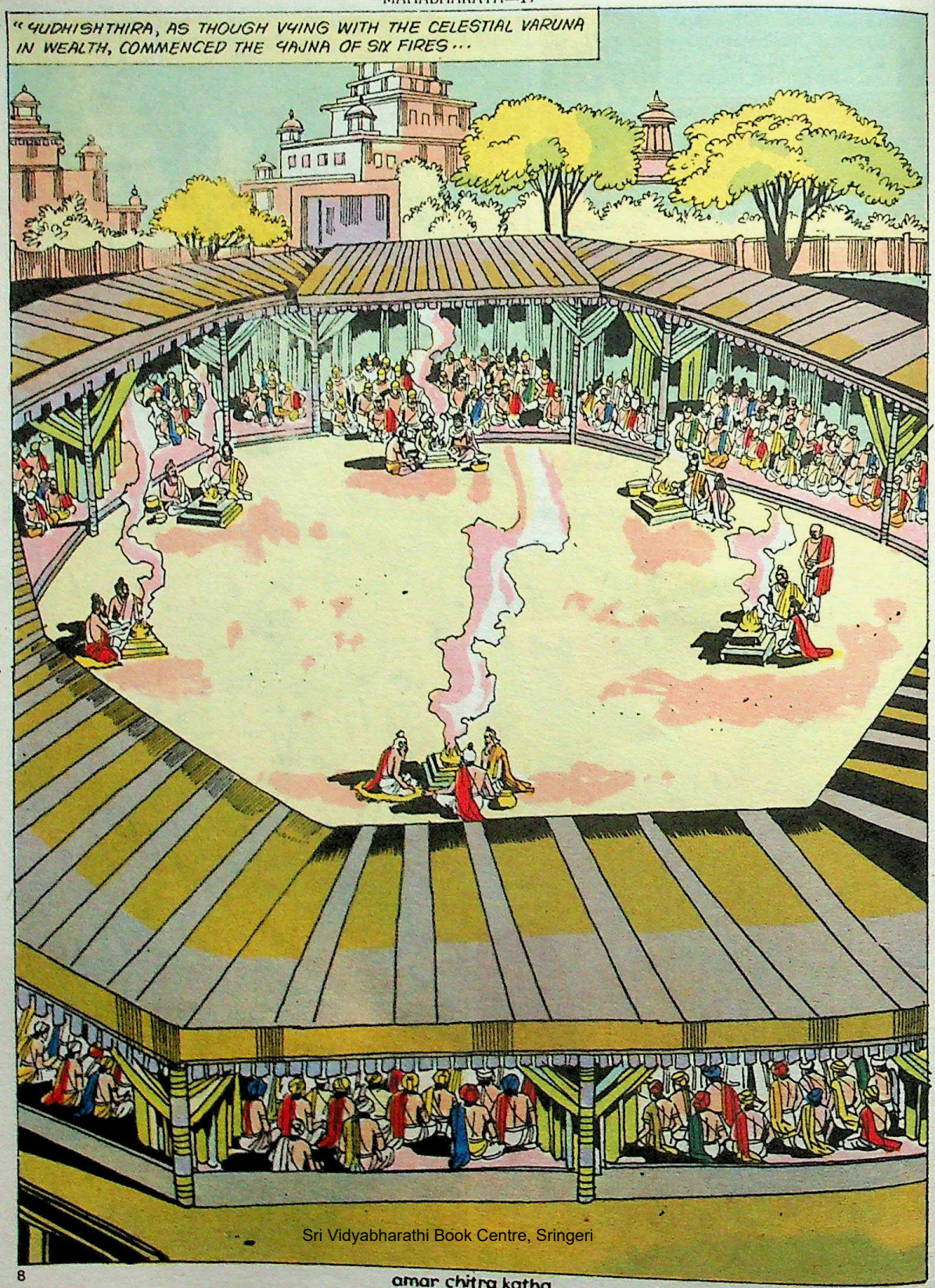

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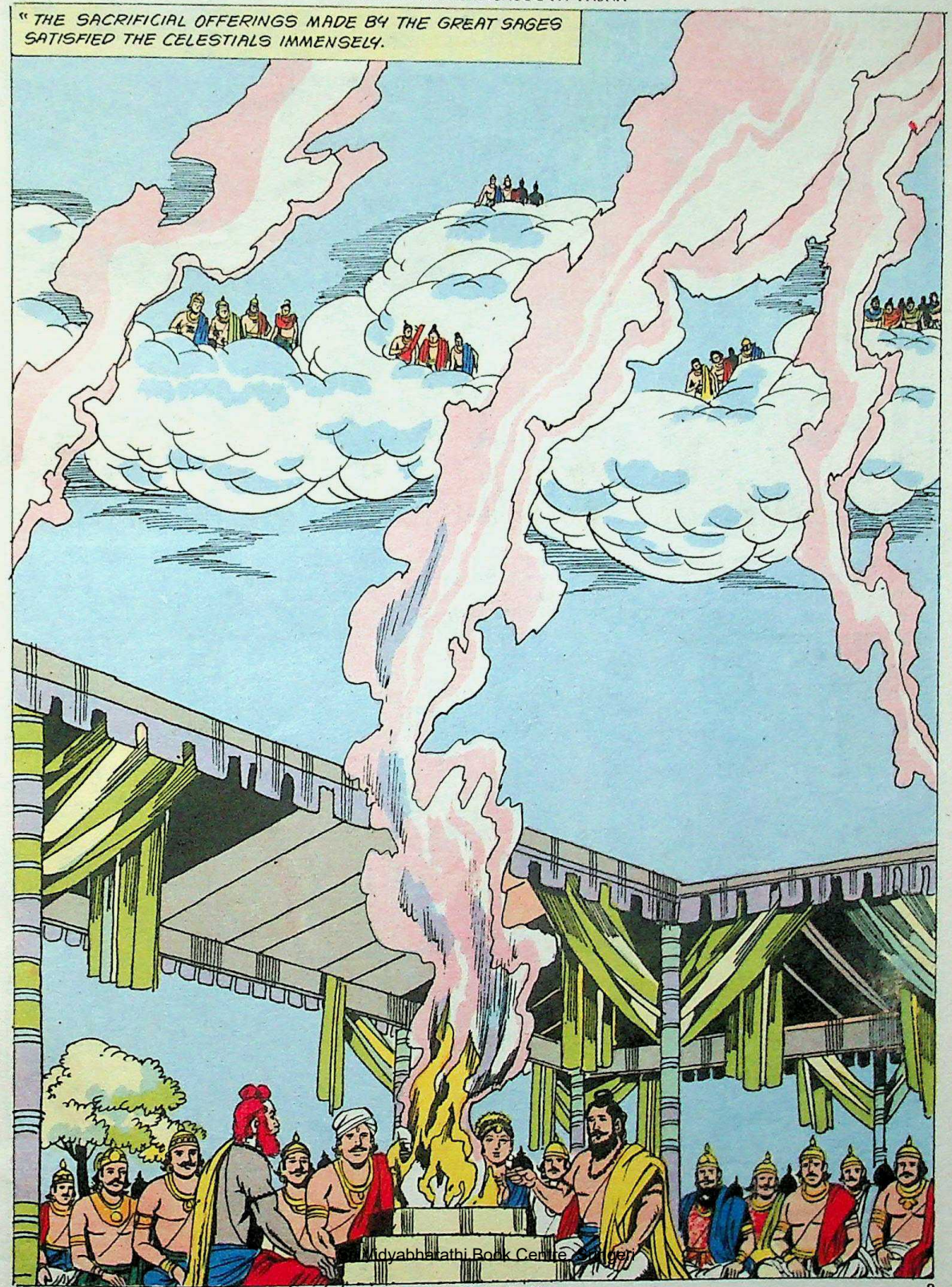

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"ON THE DAY OF THE CEREMONIAL BATH, THE BRAHMANAS, ALONG WITH THE KINGS, ENTERED THE INNER QUARTERS OF THE SACRIFICIAL MANSION TO RECEIVE HONOURS.

"GRACED BY THE PRESENCE OF NARADA, THE FOREMOST AMONG SAGES, AND THE SAINTLY KINGS, THE ASSEMBLY IN THE SACRIFICIAL MANSION WAS AS GLORIOUS AS THE ASSEMBLY OF BRAHMA*. THERE BHEESHMA ADDRESSED YUDHISHTHIRA—

O BHARATA†, OFFER SUITABLE WORSHIP TO THE KINGS WHO DESERVE YOUR RESPECT.

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

* THE CREATOR, ACCORDING TO HINDU MYTHOLOGY.

† DESCENDANT OF BHARATA

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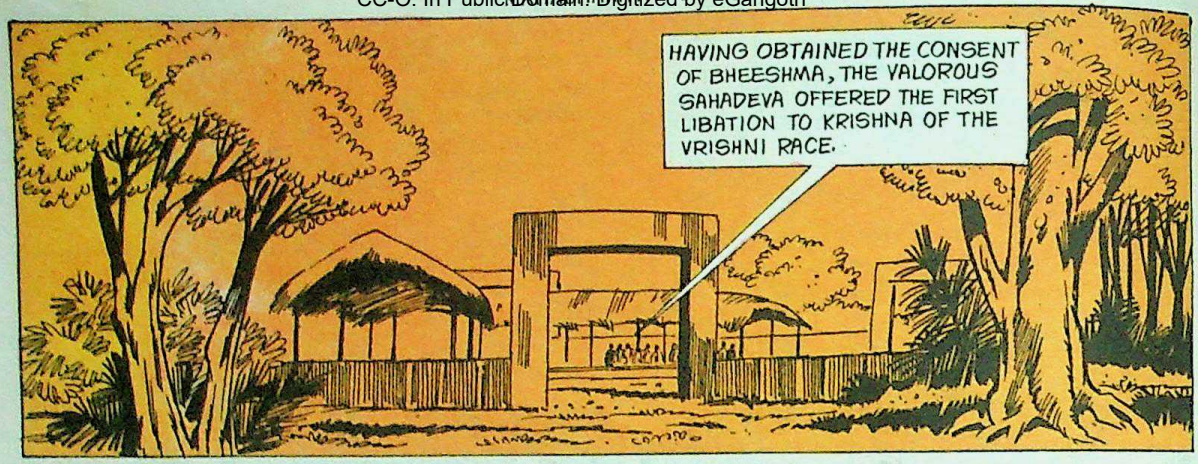

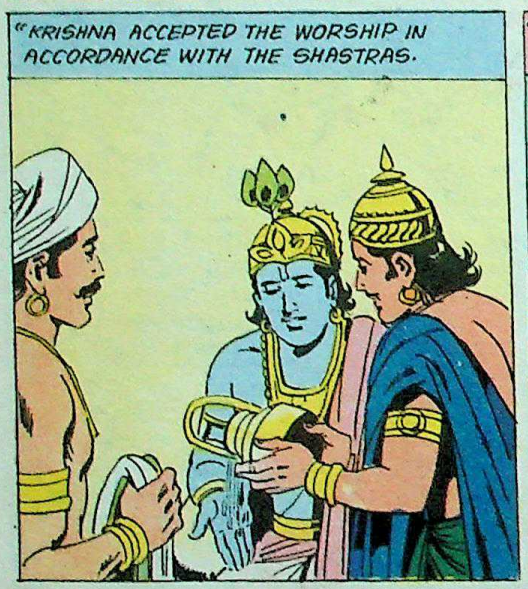

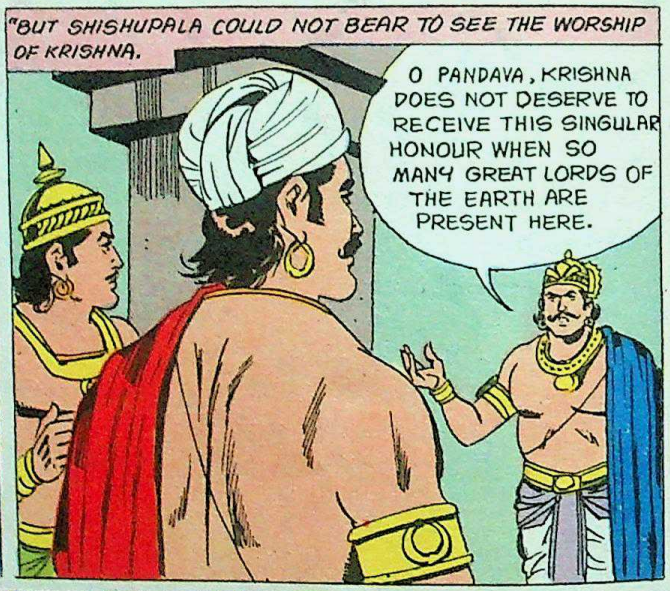

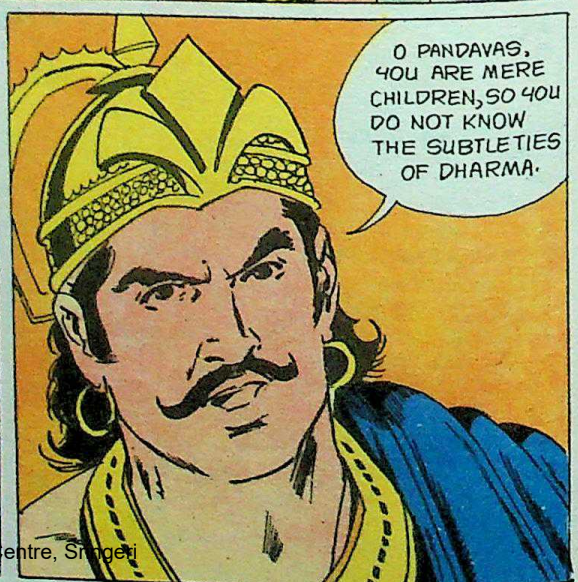

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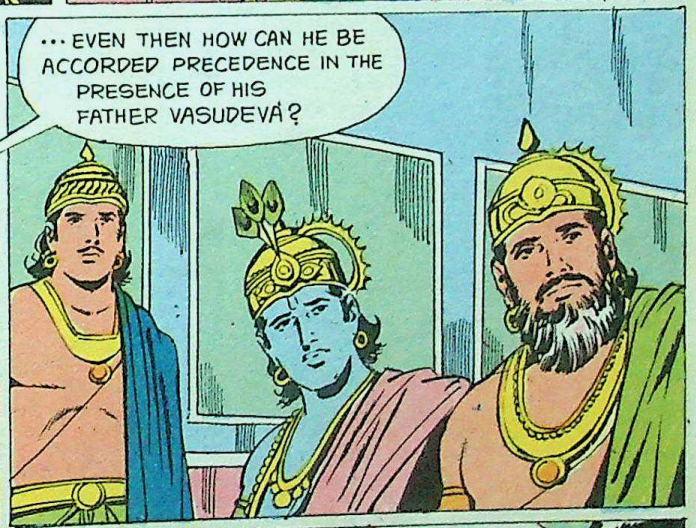

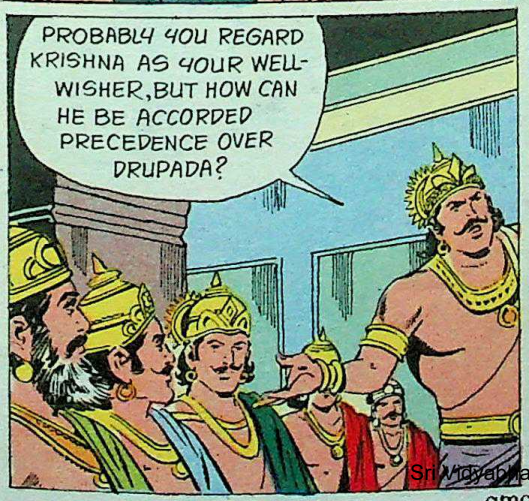

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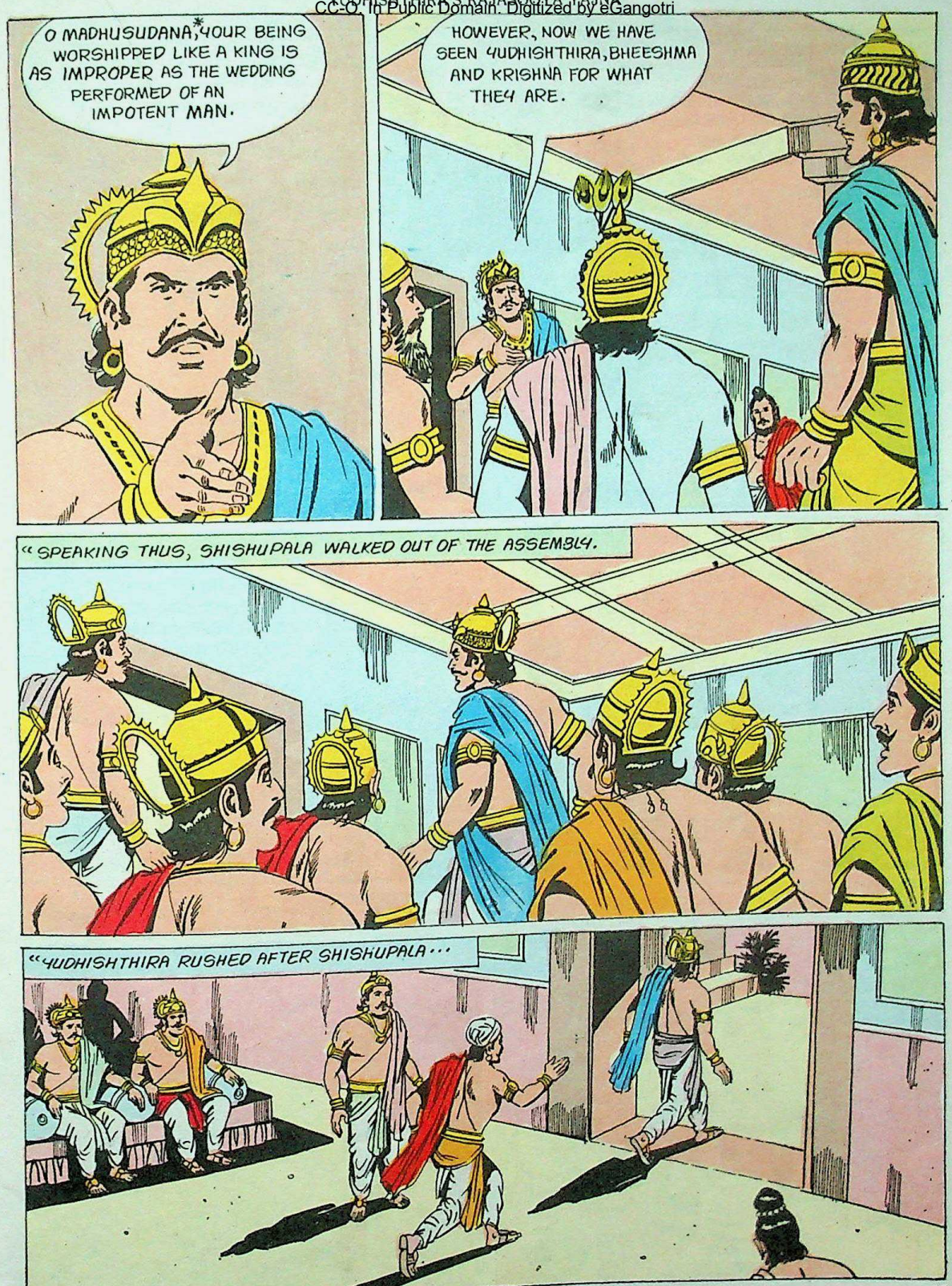

* KRISHNA (KILLER OF MADHU)

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"... AND PACIFIED HIM WITH THESE WORDS UTTERED PLEASANTLY—

O LORD OF MEN, YOUR UTTERANCES ARE NOT WORTHY OF YOU. THEY ARE IMPROPER AND HARSH.

IT IS NOT CONCEIVABLE THAT BHEESHMA, THE SON OF SHANTANU DOES NOT KNOW WHAT IS PROPER. DO NOT, THEREFORE, SAY THINGS THAT OFFEND HIM.

BEHOLD THESE KINGS WHO ARE OLDER THAN YOU. EVEN THEY APPROVE OF THE WORSHIP OF KRISHNA, AND SO SHOULD YOU, TOO.

THEN BHEESHMA SAID:

IT IS FUTILE TO PLEAD WITH ONE WHO DOES NOT APPRECIATE THE HONOUR BESTOWED UPON KRISHNA WHO IS THE PATRIARCH OF ALL THE WORLDS...

...IN THIS ASSEMBLY I SEE NO KING WHO HAS NOT BEEN SUBDUED BY THE GLORY OF KRISHNA.

THEREFORE, EVEN IN THE PRESENCE OF THESE ELDERS I WORSHIP KRISHNA AND NONE OTHER.

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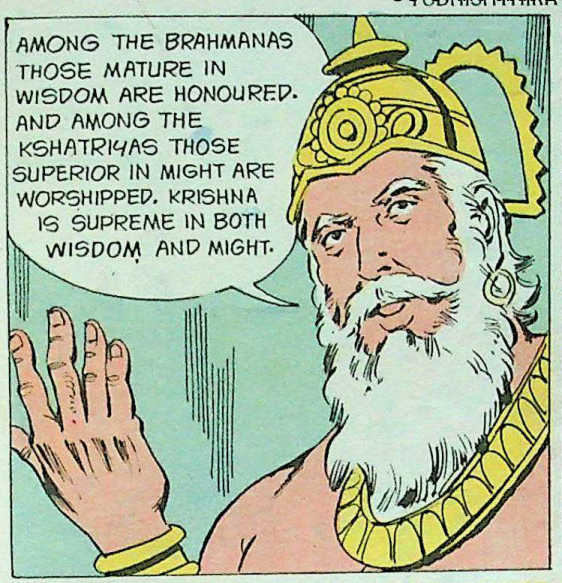

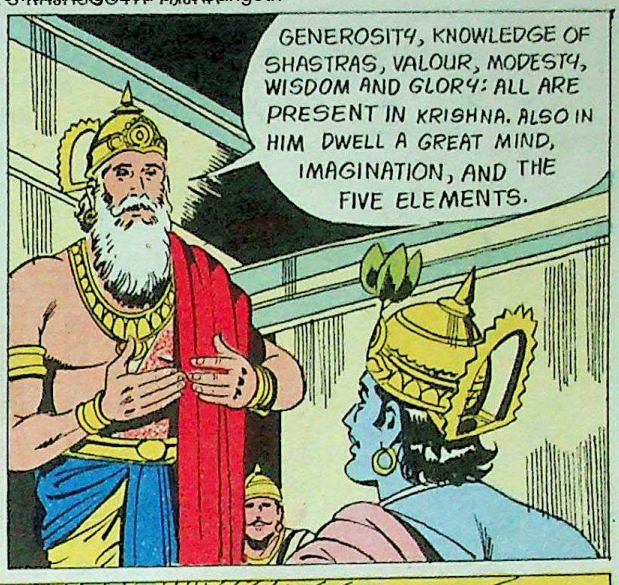

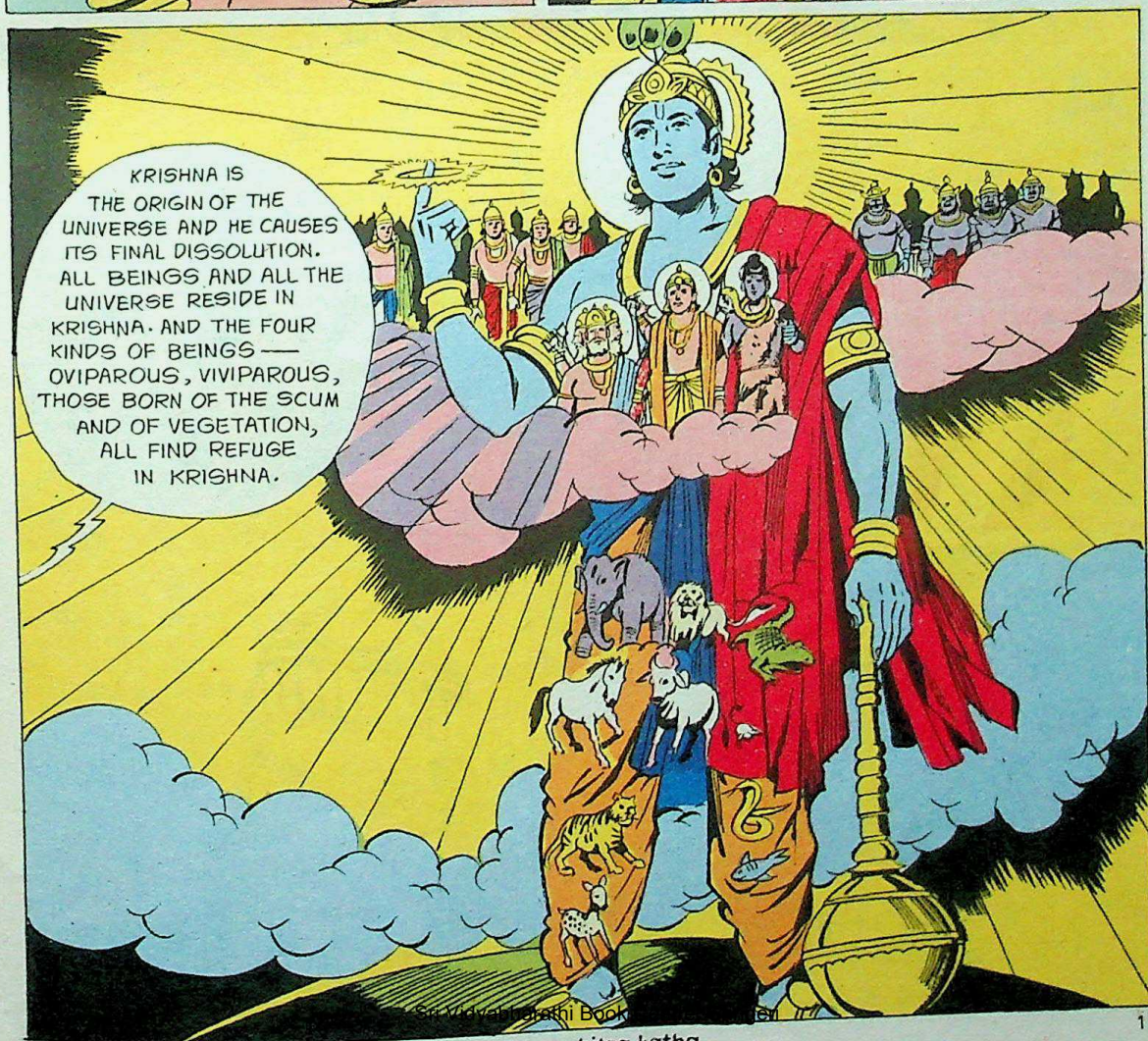

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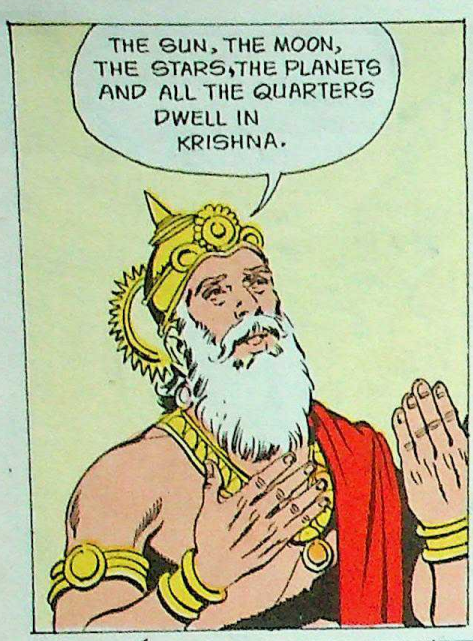

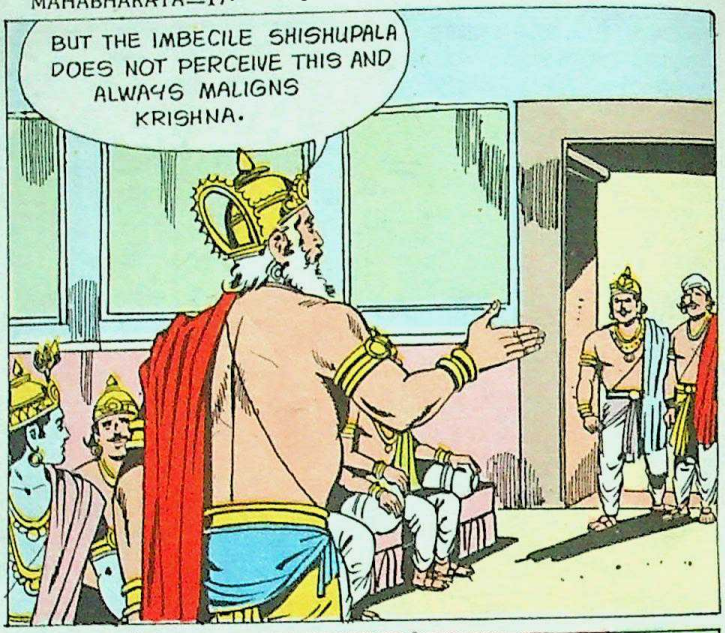

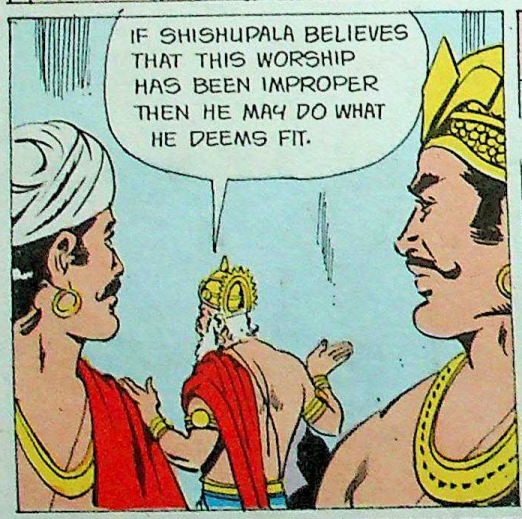

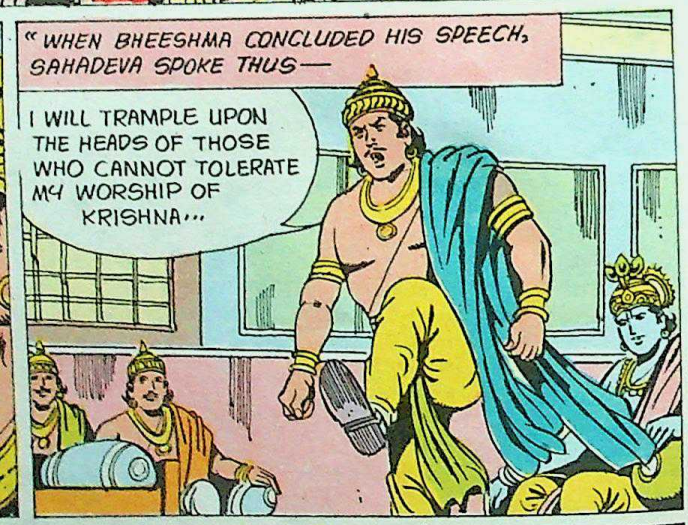

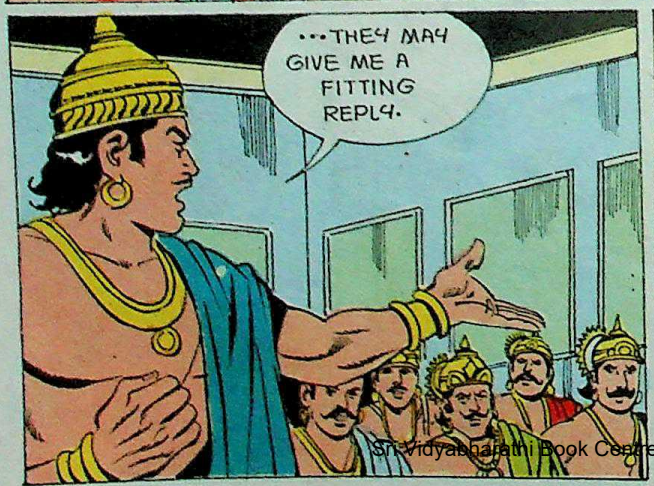

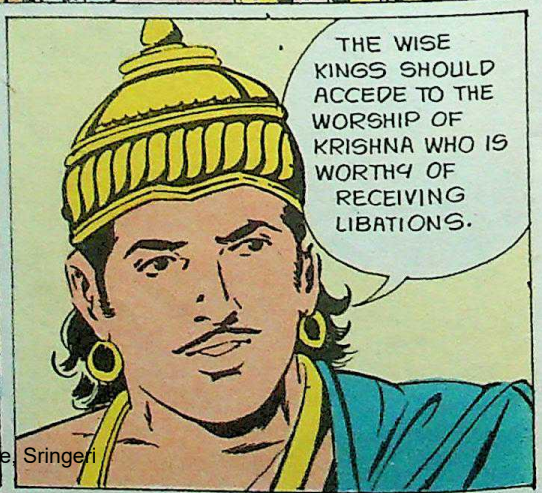

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"EVEN WHEN SAHADEVA RAISED HIS FOOT, NONE OF THE KINGS UTTERED A WORD. THEN CELESTIALS HAILED HIS ACTION AND SHOWERED FLOWERS ON HIM.

WELL DONE! WELL DONE!

"BUT THE FACES OF MANY KINGS DARKENED WITH ANGER. SHISHUPALA, WHOSE EYES BECAME BLOODSHOT WITH RAGE, SAID:

O KINGS, I AM STANDING HERE TO LEAD YOU...

...LET US FIGHT WITH KRISHNA AND THE PANDAVAS.

THE CHEDI BULL* CONFERRED WITH THE KINGS AND INSTIGATED THEM TO DEFILE THE YAJNA.

"BEHOLDING THE ANGRY KINGS, YUDHISHTHIRA ASKED BHEESHMA—

O GRANDSIRE, THIS OCEAN OF KINGS IS AGITATED WITH IRE...

*SHISHUPALA

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* THE GOD OF DEATH.

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* DEMONESS POOTANA. † KRISHNA HAD KILLED AN ASURA NAMED DHENUKA WHO WAS IN THE GUISE OF A BULL.

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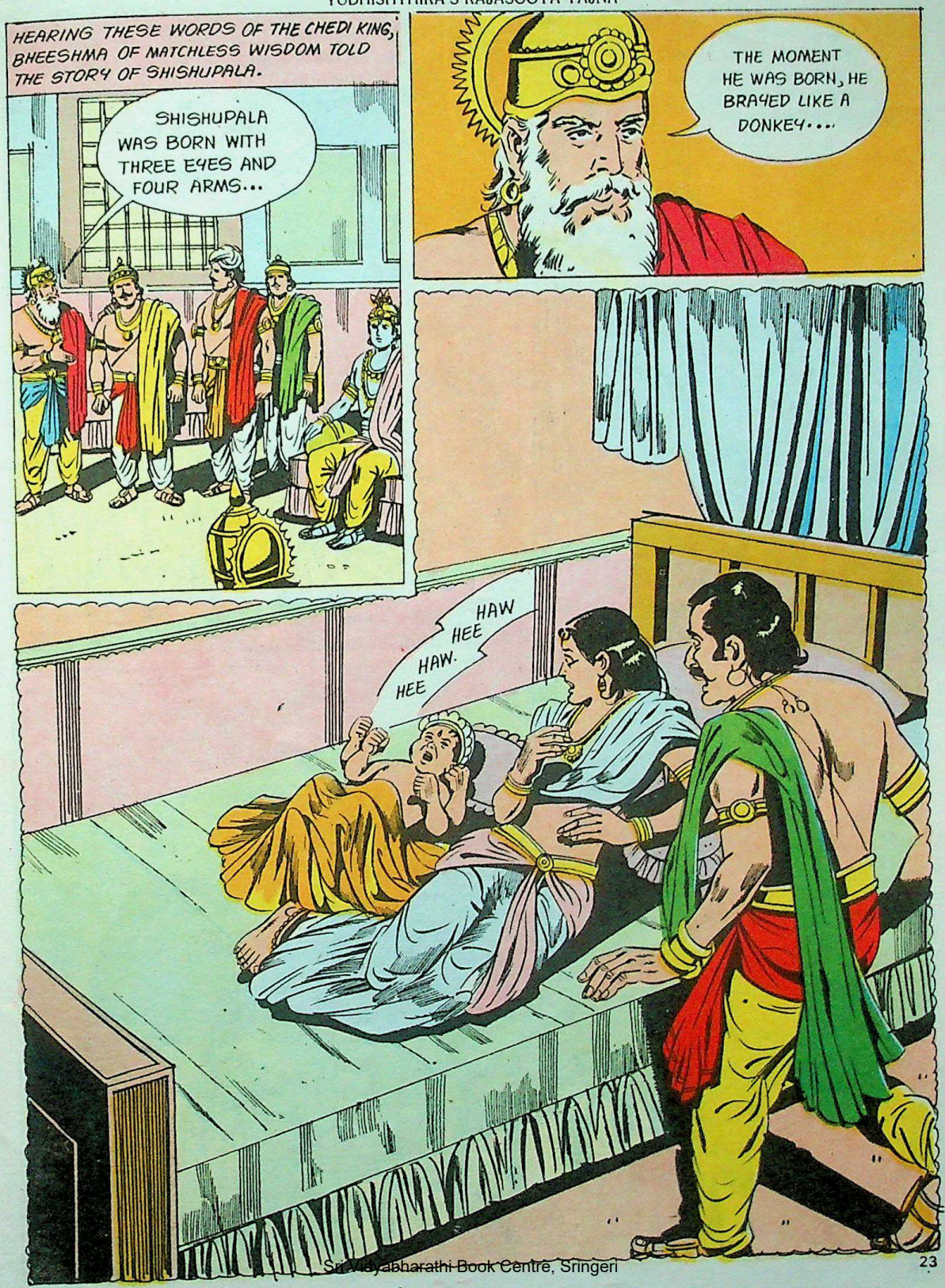

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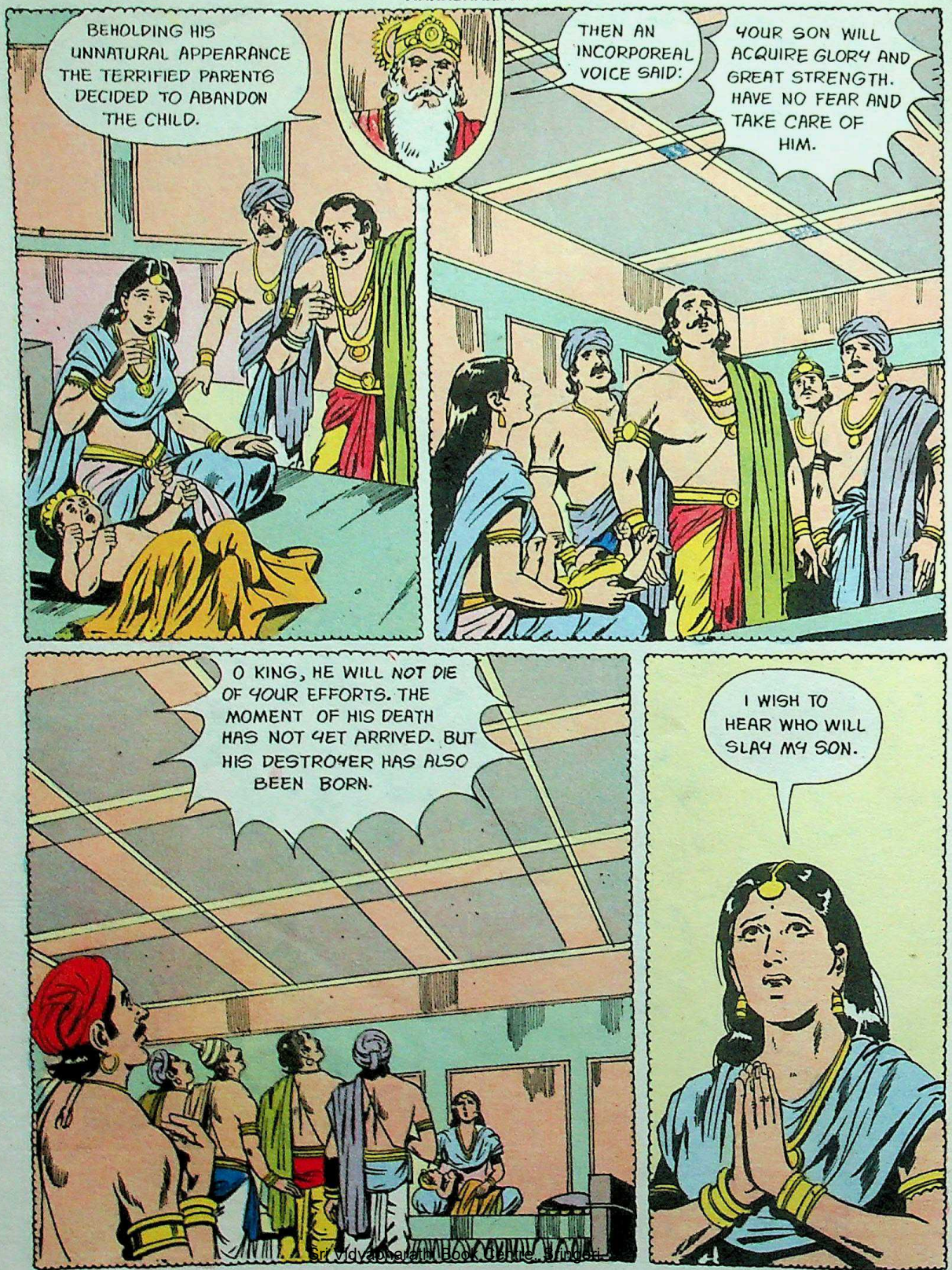

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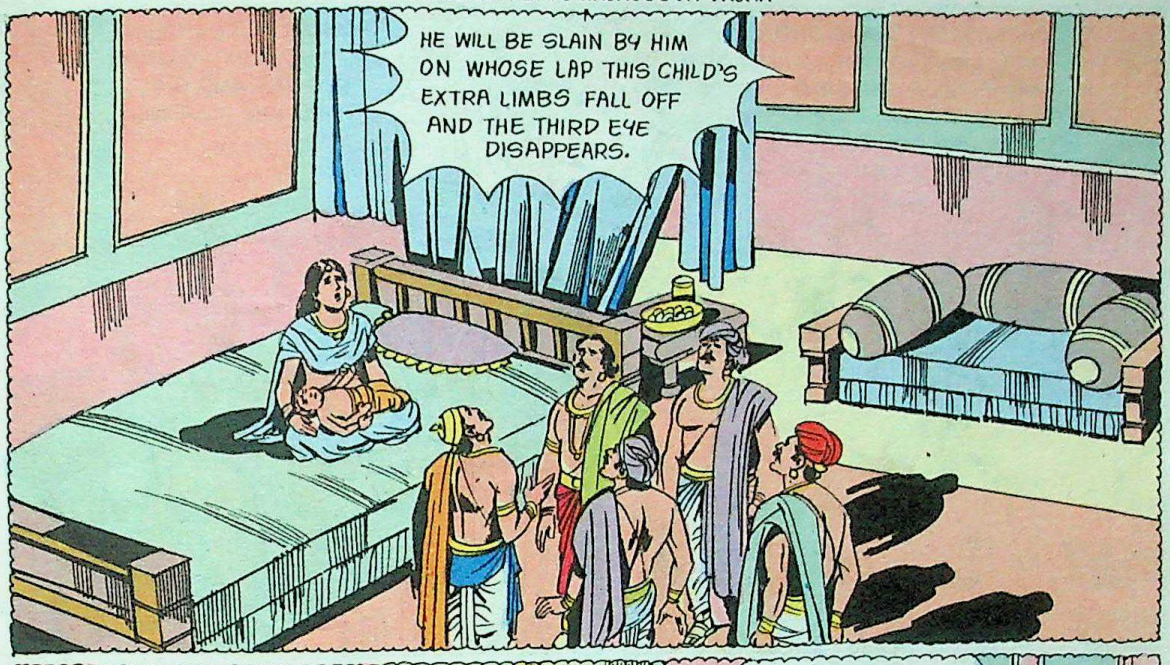

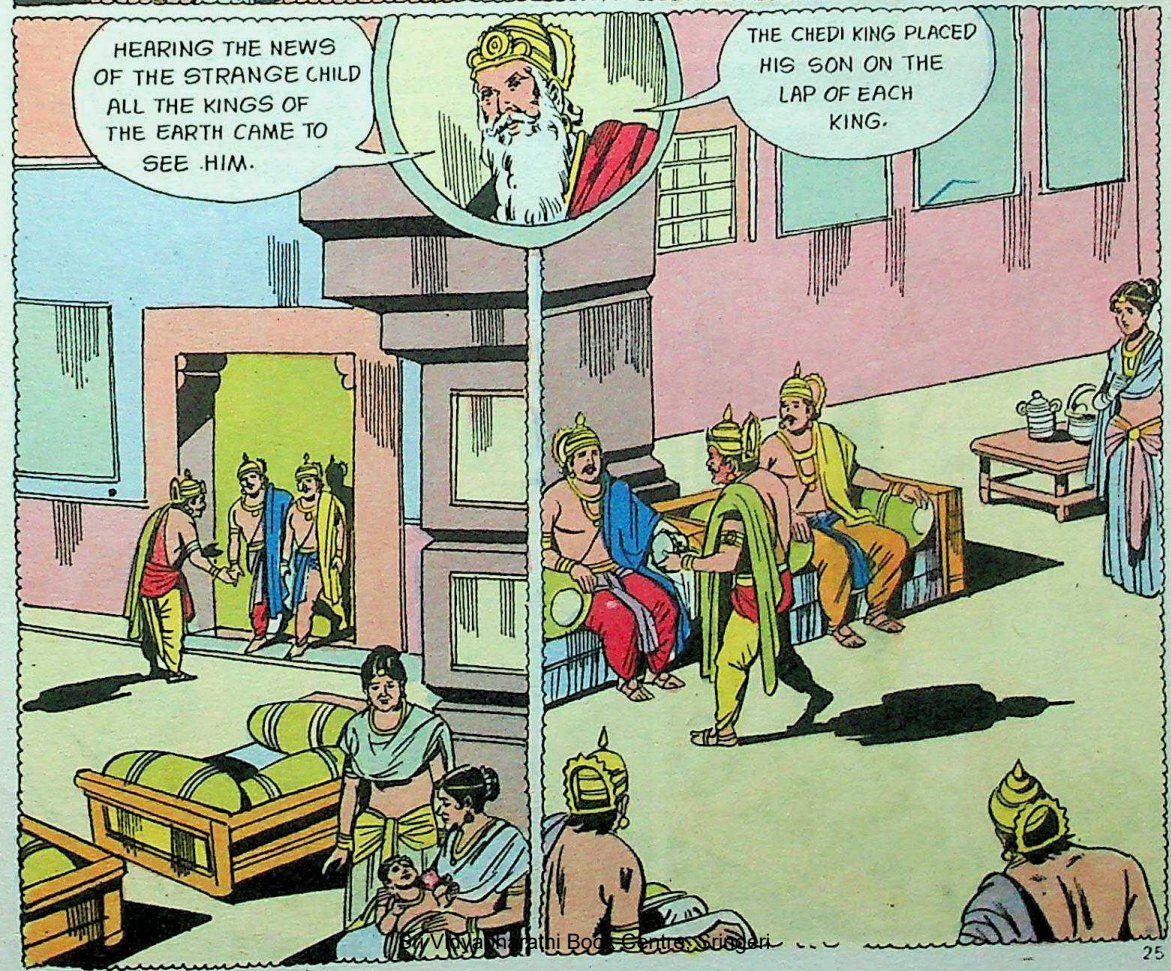

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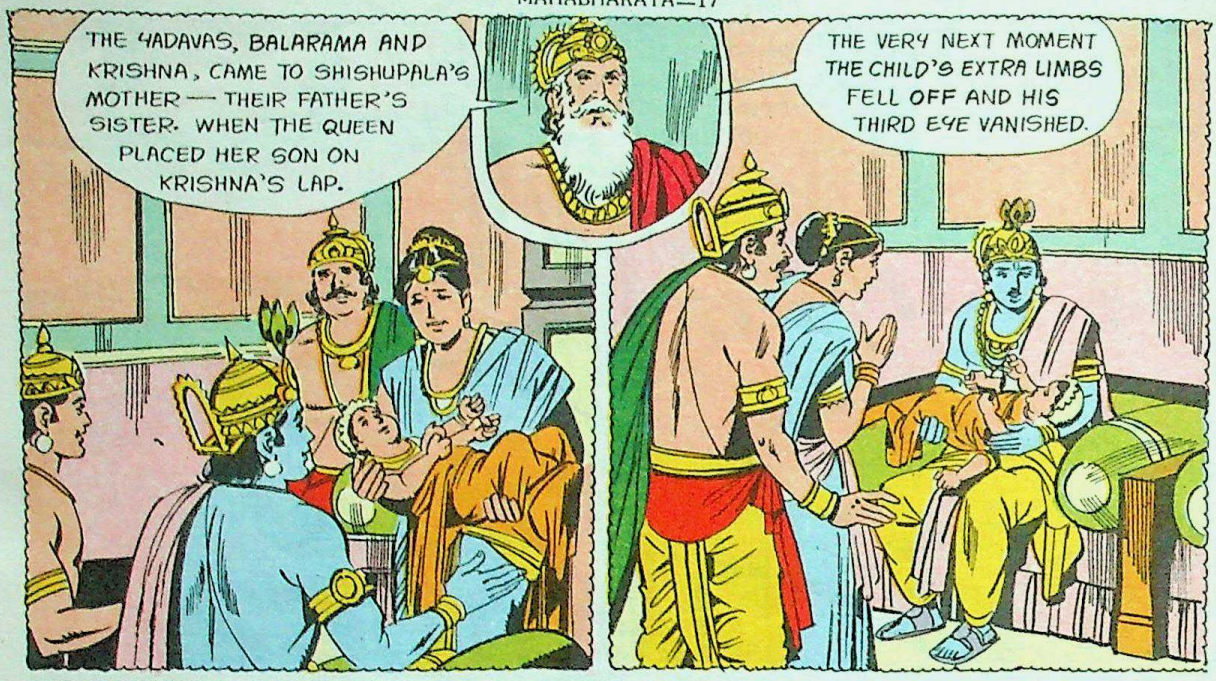

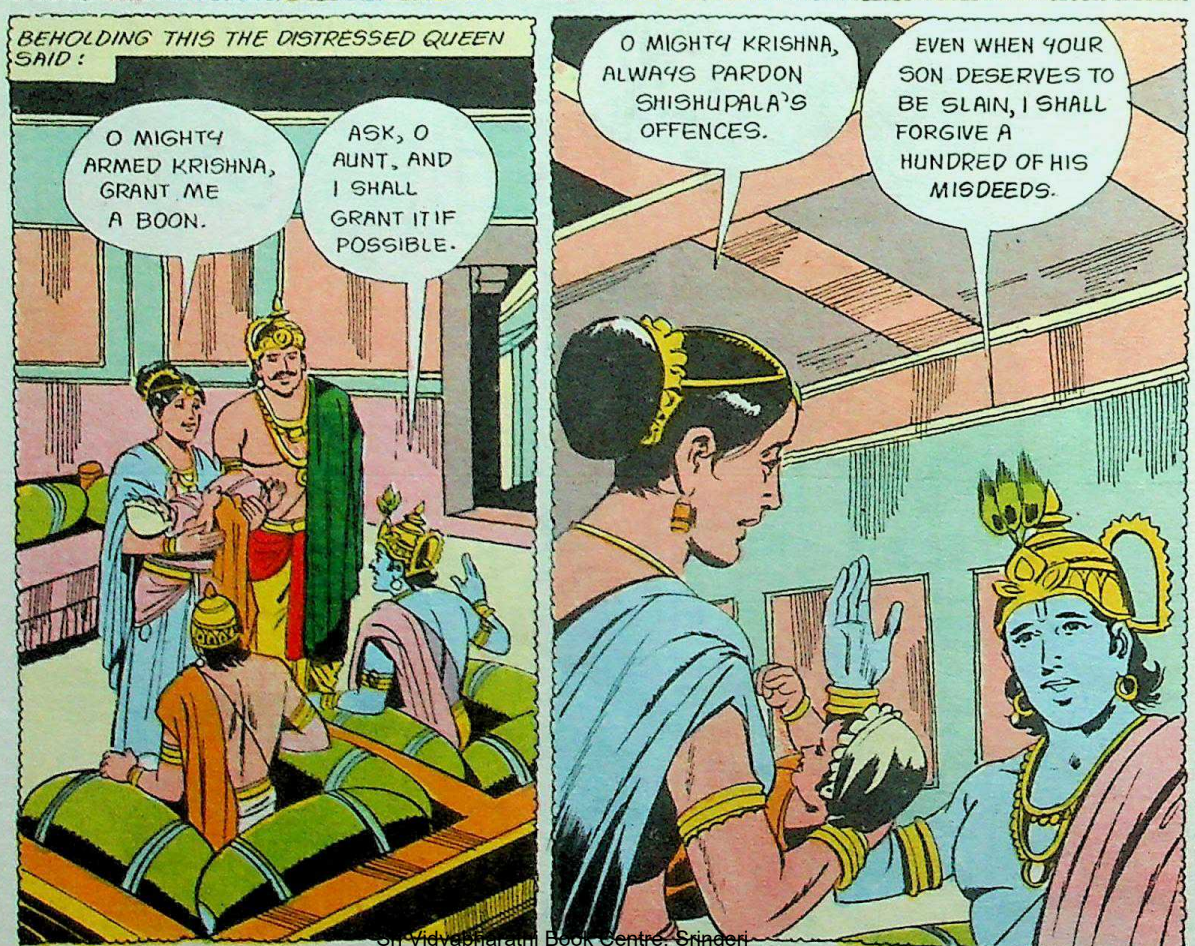

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* HARI = KRISHNA.

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+ HORSE SACRIFICE.

* THE PRINCIPAL QUEEN OF KRISHNA.

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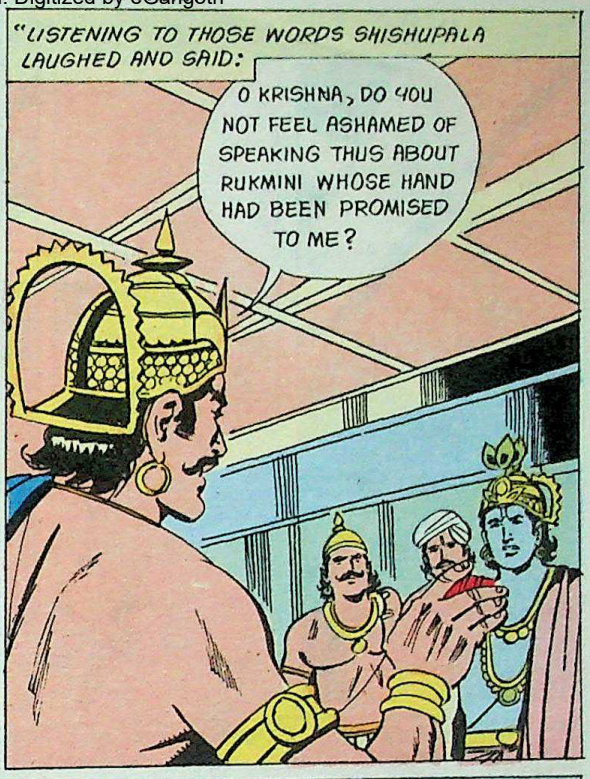

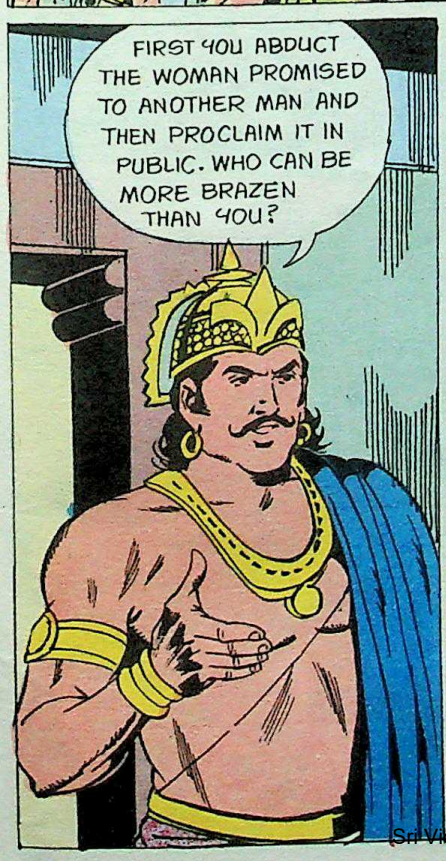

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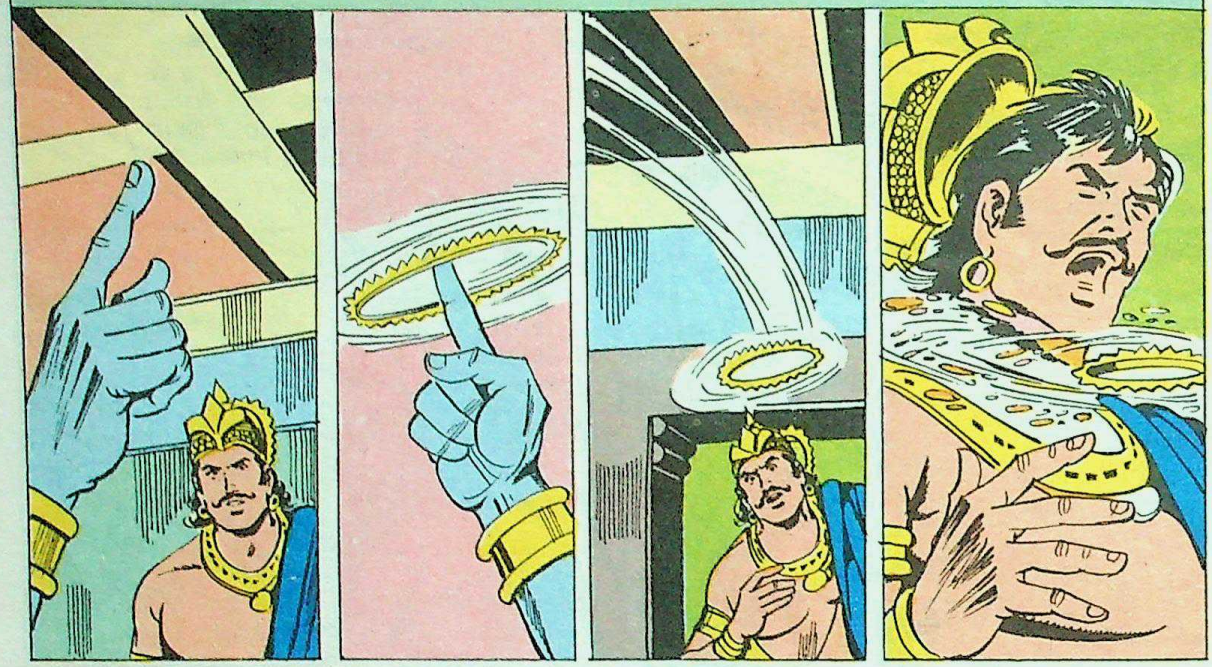
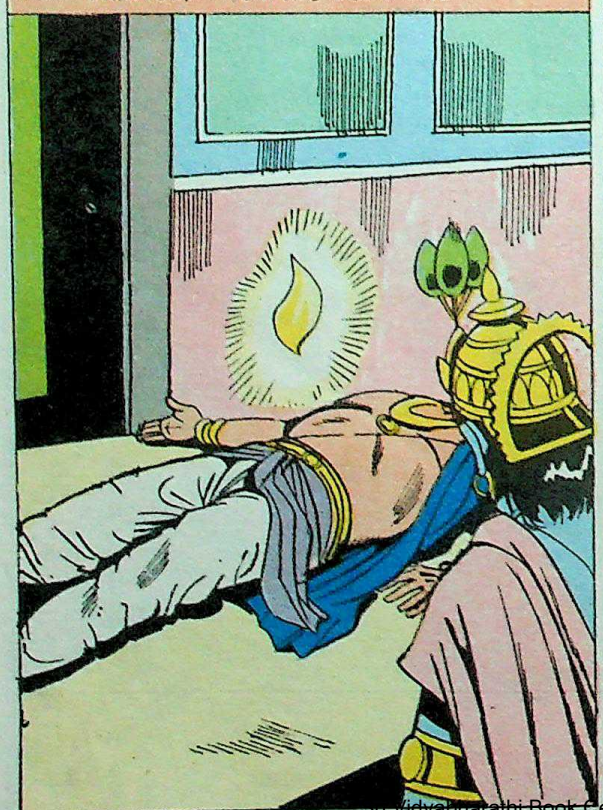
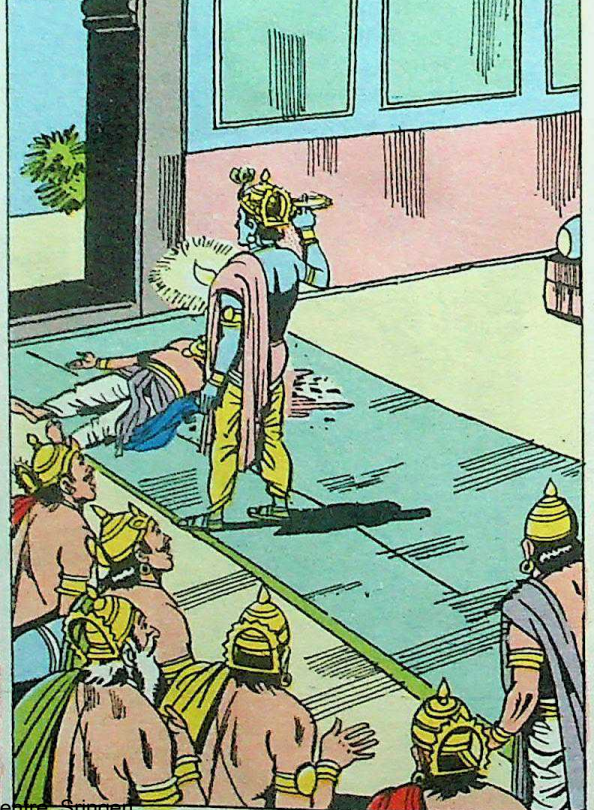
"WHILE SHISHUPALA WAS UTTERING THESE WORDS, LORD KRISHNA BEHEADED HIM WITH HIS DISCUS.



"SHISHUPALA FELL TO THE GROUND LIKE A MOUNTAIN UPROOTED BY VAJRA*. A BRILLIANT LIGHT EMERGED FROM HIS BODY AND...



"... THEN IT MERGED WITH THE BODY OF PURUSHOTTAMA⊕...



* THE WEAPON OF INDRA

⊕ THE LORD OF MEN — KRISHNA.

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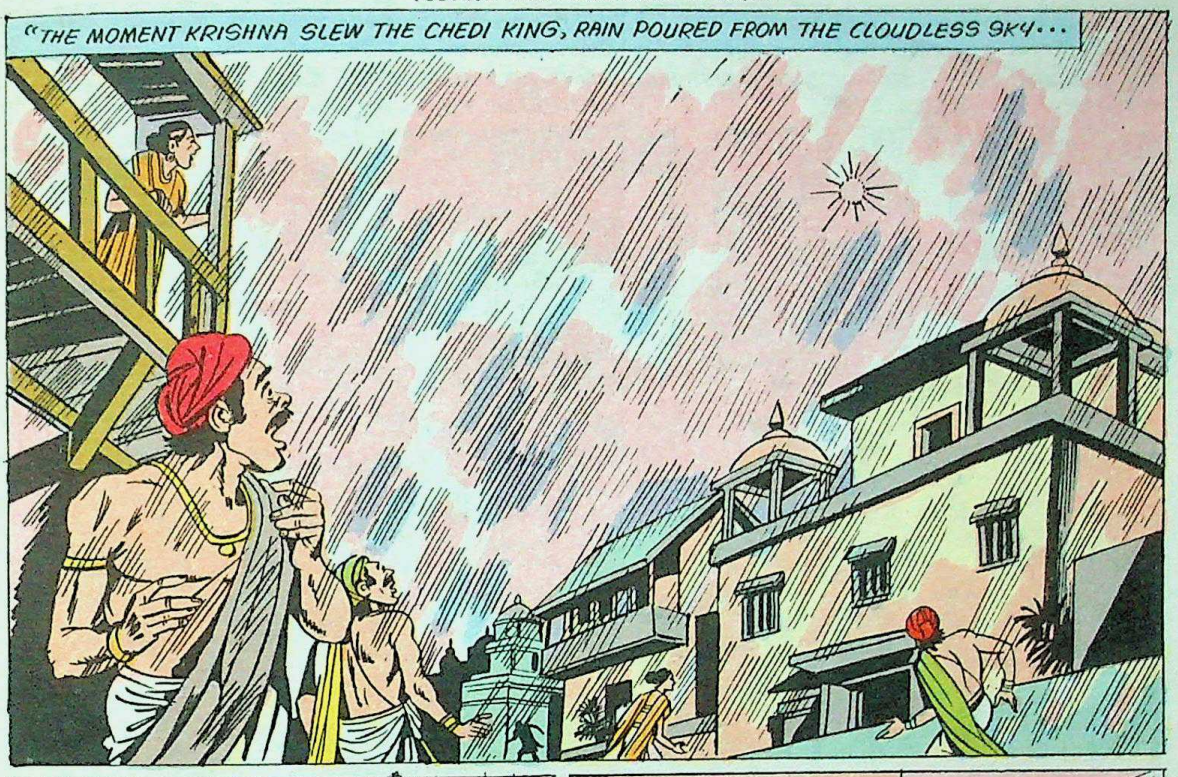

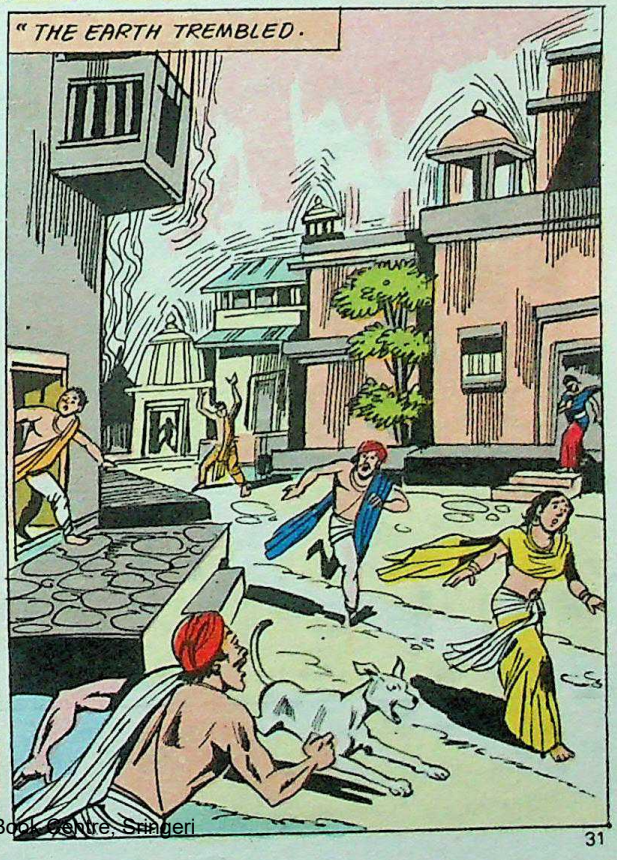

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I'd walked up to her
and offered my pack
of fresh mint
bubble gum.
She popped
one in.
And she smiled .....

Was it my charm, or was it my bubble gum?

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